

ART397S ALTERNATE STRATEGIES/SPRING 2026

Stephan Leeper

3 Credits

Syllabus

This class is designed for students who wish to pursue experimental animation techniques utilizing physical materials. The semester will begin with visual research and self-guided experimentation using a variety of animated media. The later part of the semester will be devoted to the development of focused short projects executed in the student's media of choice. Students will also be expected to participate in a handful of workshops over the course of the semester.

Objectives:

- Students will be exposed to a variety of animators working in experimental animated media.
- Students will become familiar with powder-based, clay, paint and pixilated materials to make short animation.
- Students will learn to shepherd an idea through to the completion of an animated film while maintaining the spontaneity of their initial imagery.
- Students will develop focus, patience and stamina as they create work directly under the camera.

Software: Dragonframe, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Adobe After Effects, QuickTime 7 Pro

Class Critiques:

Students will be given the opportunity to present their work as it is completed. Please come to class fully prepared to pitch your work and ready to give fellow students the benefit of your full attention. Please be attentive, respectful, and constructive as you participate in class critiques.

Grading and Class Participation:

I recognize that different students bring a variety of background, skill-sets and interests to this art form. As such, grading for this class will be based on a combination of personal effort, applied artistry, and technical achievement.

My goal is to give regular feedback during class and written feedback in a timely manner to make necessary adjustments to your work habits. When feasible, revisions are welcome and will impact your grade accordingly.

Attendance:

Regular tardiness is not acceptable. Please notify me in advance for excused absences. Unexcused absences and excessive tardiness will have a negative impact on your grade. Four missed classes will result in the drop of a single letter grade.

Grades: Semester Total 2000 pts

Critiques, grades and project notes will be given on a regular basis. If you have concerns about your standing in the class feel free to email me.

ASSIGNMENT SCORES

Reading Guides (25 pts each)	300
Material Exploration x 4: Sand, Pixilation, Book Films & Drawn on Film	300
Research Assignment #1	400
Research Assignment #2/10 Second Project	600
Research Journal	200
Semester Total	1800 pts

Required Text:

Fluid Frames by Corrie Frances Parks

Focal Press

ISBN-10: 9781138784918

Supplies and Equipment:

Most of the materials and equipment will be provided for in this class. However, being a class heavily dependent on research and experimentation, at times there will be opportunities for students to bring in specialized materials and possibly equipment.

Class Journal: You will be required to keep a sketchbook/journal, solely dedicated to this class. Choose a size that you can bring to the studio and class screenings as you will be recording everything from newly discovered artists to story thumbnails, ideas for projects and technical information.